



Downingtown Area Historical Society **Hist-O-Gram**

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

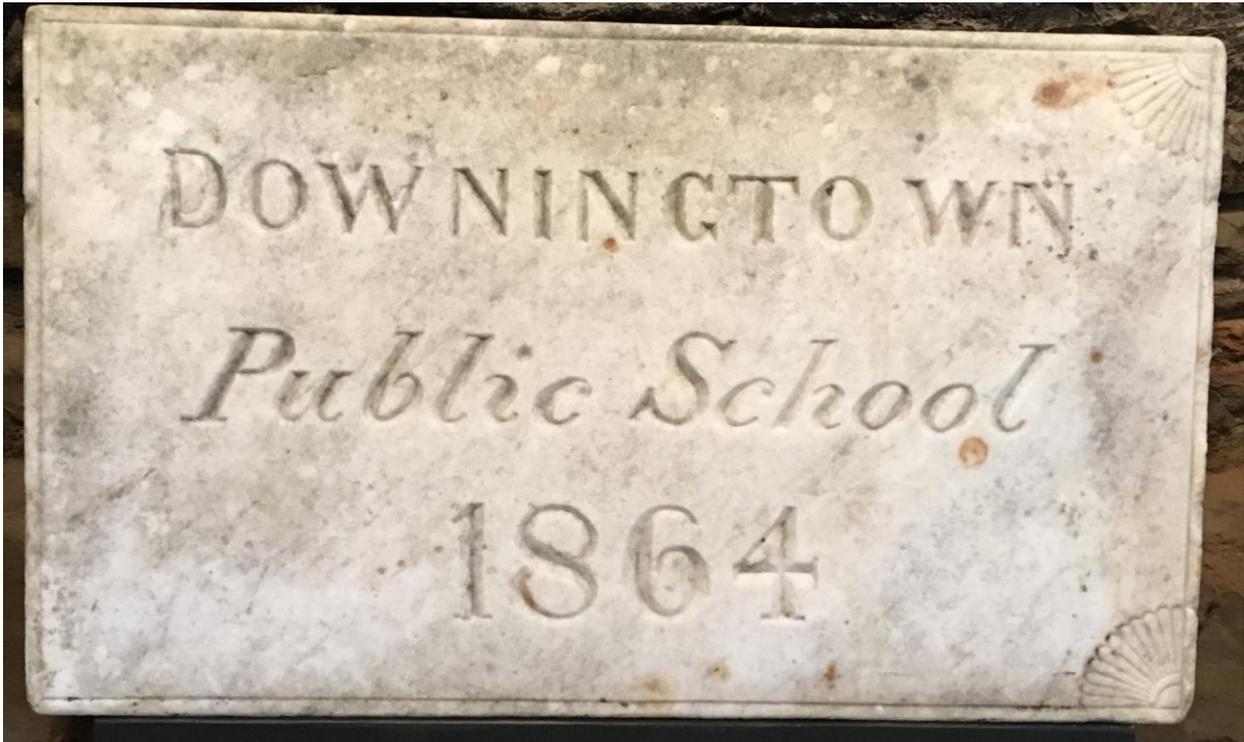
www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org

The past is never done. It is not even past--William Faulkner

Vol. 8, No. 36

September 7, 2017

Where was this school located?



The first person who correctly identifies the location of Downingtown's first public school will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your responses to:

dahs19335@gmail.com

Access to latest historic "Then & Now" photo sequences

You can see all of the "Then & Now" morphed photo sequences of local historic sites via:

www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org/Then_and_Now.html

What locals were talking about 36 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in the East Branch Citizen in early September 1981:

- The soft real estate market continued to inhibit the growth of the enrollment in the **Downingtown Area School District** during the 1981-1982 school year. It had been estimated that about 7,500 pupils would be attending classes when the schools opened on September 10. And although the total number of pupils enrolled in the local public system initially had been projected to increase by 25 students, the latest enrollment projection for the new school year declined by 66 pupils, compared to the 1980-81 school year.
- Also, the school district professional staff's **average salary** was \$17,734 in the 1980-81 school year, while the highest average in Chester County was \$20,946 and the lowest was \$15,577.
- **Downingtown United Methodist Church** was sponsoring a Laotian refugee family. And William Butler was the new choir director, and Robin Lang was the new organist.
- Recent **property transfers** included: 158 Appledore Drive, Caln, \$43,000; 1120 New Hampshire Lane, West Bradford, \$79,428; 716 Brook Road, Uwchlan, \$128,500; and 45 Dorothy Lane, Upper Uwchlan, \$80,000.
- **Fannie Eachus**, who had been a hairdresser at 19 Brandywine Avenue in Downingtown for almost 45 years before she retired in 1981, said, "For some people, having their hair done is a form of therapy. It really lifts their spirits."
- The **Downingtown Fire Department** conducted a Firefighters Olympics in Kardon Park. West Bradford Fire Co. won first place; West Whiteland came in second, and Thorndale finished third. Since it was the host, Downingtown didn't compete against the other fire companies.
- Youngsters from **Messiah Lutheran Church**, Downingtown, who attended Bear Creek Camp were Carol Bradford, Jennifer and Margie Snyder, Patty Larson, and Lenny Musselman.
- Returning letter winners for the **DHS girls' tennis team** were Laura McGeorge, Debbie Hartman, Rochelle Buhr and Cindy Lichok. Coach Becky Desmond was expecting Jane Gerlach, Gwen Holtan, Sally McClure Lisa Cabott, Kim Becker and Cathy Brandl to complete the starting lineup for the Whippets.

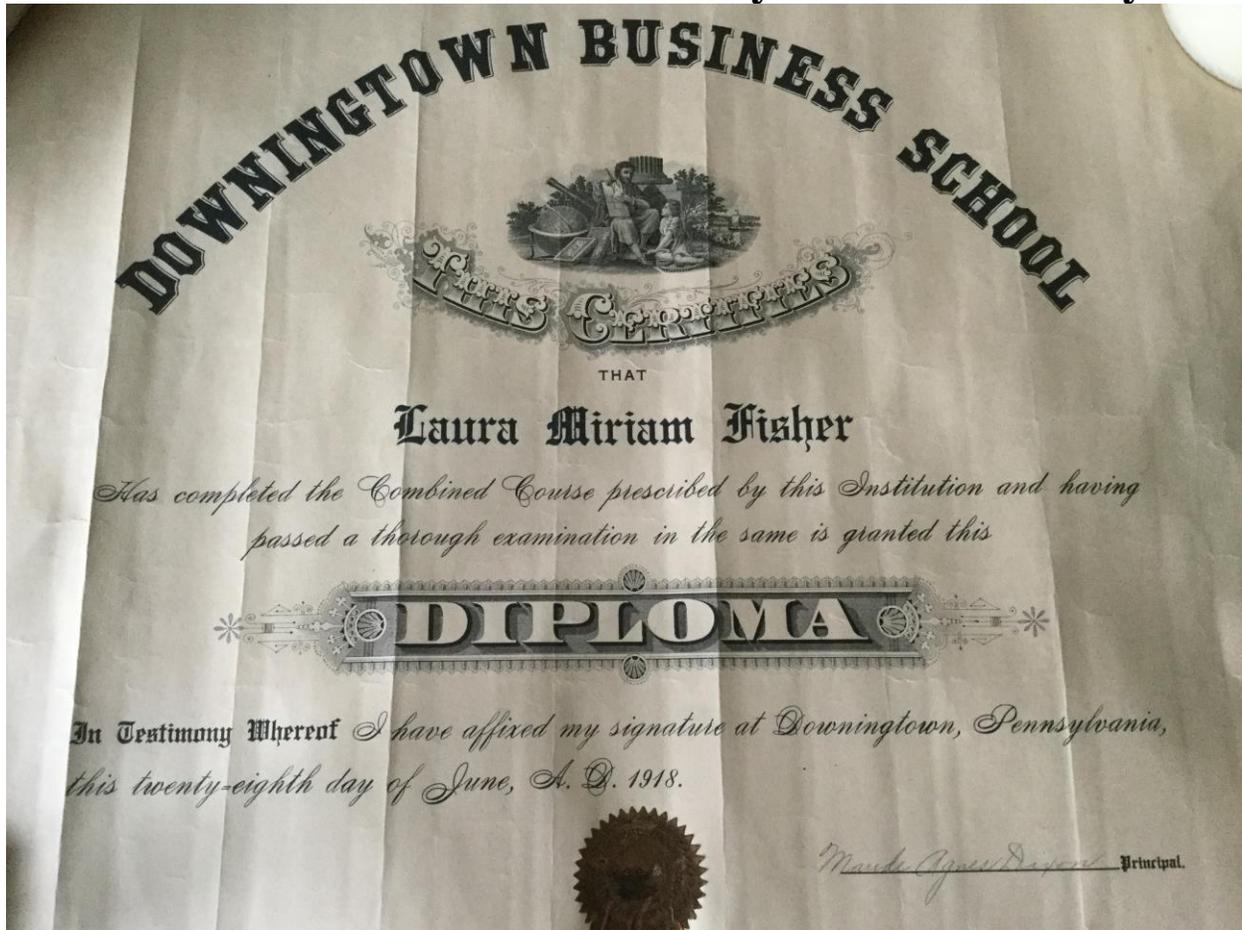
Protecting you from scams

To better protect consumers from financial scams, Pennsylvania's Office of Attorney General has created a unit dedicated to consumer financial protection. The effort will focus on lenders that prey on seniors, families with students, and military service members, including for-profit colleges and mortgage and student loan servicers, according to State Rep Harry Lewis.

If you think you've been scammed, call the attorney general's office at 1-800-441-2555 or send an email to scam@attorneygeneral.gov.

In 2016, the Office of Attorney General's Consumer Protection Bureau handled 19,727 consumer complaints and returned a total of \$8.5 million in restitution to consumers.

Info on DBS found at Chester County Historical Society



Dan Lindley is a truly perceptive scholar because he went to West Chester and did research in the Chester County Historical Society's clipping files, where he discovered lots of information about the Downingtown Business School.

The school was opened in September 1916, by Maude A. Dixon, the principal, who had been the assistant principal of the West Chester Business School, according to a story in the *Daily Local News*. The last newspaper article about the school was published in 1919. The school, located in the Improvement Building at Stuart and West Lancaster Avenues in the borough, offered classes over 10 months in the evening as well as daytime. The curriculum included typing, shorthand, bookkeeping and business methods classes.

Commencements, which included music by an orchestra, were held in Downingtown's Central Presbyterian Church, where Dixon was a member of the Young Woman's Club. The first graduating class including Blanche E. Sharpless, Rose L. Gallagher, Helen R. McClure, Martin B. Berryman (class president), Ralph B. Chamberlin, Isaac R. Foreman and Dominic J. Donato.

Dixon was a life-long resident of Downingtown, who was a charter member of the Downingtown Woman's Club. She died in 1959 and is buried at Northwood Cemetery.

Laura Miriam Fisher, whose 1918 diploma is shown above, lived in Glen Moore while attending the Business School. After she graduated and worked in Philadelphia for a while, Miriam returned to Downingtown and married Irvin Darlington. One of their children was Iva Darlington Siever, who provided the digitized copy of the mother's diploma.

What locals were talking about 61 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in September 1956 editions of the *Downingtown Archive*:

- The **A & P supermarket's** lease on the building next to Downingtown's Borough Hall was not going to be renewed in May 1957. The supermarket chain was negotiating with local realtor Chandler Roberts about the construction of a new A & P store, across from Kerr Park. The site of the former supermarket on West Lancaster Avenue now is the borough Police Station.
- **East Brandywine Township's School Board** submitted plans for a new elementary school to the Chester County School Board. Wallace Township School District participated in building the new school, which still is known as the Brandywine-Wallace School.
- A group of Downingtown businessmen requested Borough Council to buy the Griffith and Gatchel properties on East Lancaster Avenue, so they could be turned into parking lots. They also proposed that the Council should purchase a garage on Stuart Avenue, behind the Mittel building, for a future parking area. The businessmen said a new **one-mill mercantile tax** would cover the costs of buying the properties.
- Youngsters enrolled in the first grade at **Indiantown School**, Glen Moore, were Bonnie Andrews, Steven Brown, Carol Lee Craig, Edith de Russy, Brian Fox, Eugene Hannum, James Herrington, Roxanne Houck, Gail Kay, Wilma Knight, Deborah March, Dorothy May, Barry Ortlip, Florence Patterson, James Slonaker, Michael Taylor and Kenneth Weaver.
- Downingtown National Bank bought 108 front feet of property on Brandywine Avenue in the borough from the **Bicking Paper Co.** Buildings on the site purchased included a shoe repair business and the paper mill's machine shop.
- Members of Downingtown **Boy Scout Troop 82** who camped at Icedale, included James Dawson, Jerry Thompson, David Pollock, Lewis Wilson, William Pollock, Richard Rittenbough, Paul Backenstose, John Houston, Lee Hayes, Mark Jones and Barton Trader.
- Teachers in the **Uwchlan Township School District**, who taught in 1956, included Mrs. William Yonker, Mount Airy School; Mrs. Robert Mertz, the Grange building school; and Mrs. Walter Styer, Lionville Elementary School.
- Edwin Wagner resigned as Downingtown's borough manager. When he was hired as the borough's superintendent in 1917, none of the town's streets--including Lancaster Avenue--had a hard surface.
- Coach Ray DiSerafino said the **DHS football team's** six returning lettermen were: Butch Hamilton, center; tackles Jimmy Charles and Ernie DiEugenio; and halfbacks Harold Butcher and Jim DiSante.
- Harvey Styer, William Davidson and Adam Graveno, all 1956 DHS graduates, enlisted in the **U. S. Marine Corps**.
- The **Garden Class** of the Downingtown Woman's Club was celebrating its 25th anniversary. Officers of the Class were Mrs. Clifford Ford, chairman; Mrs. Kurt Wandel, vice chairman; Mrs. C. R. Brandau, recording secretary; Mrs. J. B. Campbell, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. George Foreman, treasurer.
- Ruth Hall was re-elected president of the **Future Homemakers of America** chapter at DHS. Other officers were Judy Frank, vice president; Nancy Powell, treasurer; Betty Moore, secretary; Ruth Carmichael, reporter; and Delores Simmons, historian.

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SPECIALS

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On The Lincoln Highway

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DOWNINGTOWN

History of early DHS football teams

According to the Saylor Database, DHS played 1 game "seasons" in 1896, 1897 and 1899. It appears that those games were all against West Chester High School. In 1898, a Downingtown amateur team played West Chester, the first win, and the High School tied an amateur team from Coatesville on Thanksgiving Day. No games are recorded from 1900-1911. In 1912, two games were played. The first full DHS "season" was in 1913, in which the team ended up with a 0-7-1 record. In 1914, DHS played in the Chester County Championship Game against Coatesville. The 1914 record was 3-4-1, which appears to be the first season the High School team recorded an "official" win. That season also marked the emergence of Charley Way, and the rest, as they say, "is history." Believe it, or not, "The History" has newspaper clippings of those early games right here for you, according to John Kiefel.

You can access those clippings and tons more info about the Whippets via:

www.facebook.com/groups/594722887247727/?multi_permalinks=1448226191897388¬if_t=group_highlights¬if_id=1504189945906167

In case you missed any of our August editions

If you missed any of the Hist-O-Grams we published last month, here's how you can still access them:

August 3: www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/August%203%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf

August 10: www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/August%2010%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf

August 17: www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/August%2017%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf

August 24: www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/August%2024%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf

August 31: www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/August%2031%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf

Here's how YOU can receive a Hist-O-Gram every week

If you occasionally receive a pass-along copy of our Hist-O-Gram from a subscriber, and you'd like to receive a copy of our free Hist-O-Gram directly every week, you can do that by accessing our website: www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org, and typing your email address into the sign-up box on the home page. Also, you'll find access to an archive of every edition of the Hist-O-Gram we have published since 2010 via: www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms.html

Group Photo of the Week



DHS musicians who made the Southeastern Pennsylvania Regional Band in 1970 were, left to right, David Hemberger, Gail Wills and Richard Grimm.

We need CDs and VDs, as well as books, for our used book sale in October

Those who wish to donate gently used books, as well CDs and VDs, for the Downingtown Area Historical Society's Book Sale in October can either bring them to Ashbridge House, our headquarters in the Ashbridge Square Shopping center, next to the Chick-Fil-A Restaurant, on Route 30 in East Caln, between 1-4 PM on Sundays. Or you can arrange to have someone from the Historical Society pick them up at your home or business by calling 610-269-1709 or by sending an email to: dths1709@gmail.com.

Types of paperback, soft cover books hard cover books we're looking for include: Children's, History, Non-Fiction and Biographies, Sets, Fiction, current Self-Help and Computer books.

Used books that aren't acceptable for the Book Sale include: Textbooks, Old Self-Help Books, Water-Damaged Books, Books with hand-writing in them, Books with damaged or torn covers, and encyclopedias.

Free Ads for Non-Profits

Fall Fun Festival

Marshallton Methodist Church, 1282 W. Strasburg Road, will have a Fall Fun Festival from 8 AM-2 PM on Saturday, September 9. Rain date is Saturday, Sept. 16. Includes a Flea Market, Homemade Baked Goods & Mum Sale. Vendors who want a have a 10x10 space for \$20 or a table for \$5 should contact Doug Gindin via 610-696-7657 or bdgin@aol.com.

Car Show

Hopewell United Methodist Church, 852 Hopewell Road, East Brandywine, will have its fifth annual Car Show from 10 AM to 2 PM on Saturday, September 9. Military and first responder vehicles will be on display for the first time. There will be a dunk tank and games for kids. Registration begins at 9 AM at the church.

Downingtown FallFest

The Downingtown FallFest, sponsored by the Downingtown-Thorndale Regional Chamber of Commerce—in partnership with the Downingtown Library, the Borough of Downingtown and Victory Brewery—will be held from 11 AM to 4 PM on Sunday, September 24 (rain date: Sunday, October 1) along Green Street and E. Pennsylvania Ave. See: <http://downingtowntownfallfest.com/> for details on booth space; Registration for space closes September 8.

DHS All-Alumni 5K

The class of '97 presents the inaugural DHS All-Alumni 5K/1 mile Walk /Kids' Run at 9 AM on Saturday, October 14, on the campus of DHS West. Come and see how much your alma mater has changed, while reconnecting with old friends at this family-friendly event! Event details can be found here: <https://runsignup.com/dhsalumni5k> All proceeds from the race will be used for 3 scholarships, to be given out by the DHS Alumni Association to a student in each DASD high school.

Remembrance of 9/11 Attack

The National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum in Coatesville will commemorate the 16th anniversary of the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center in New York City with several free events on September 11, 2017. The events include: from 8:30-10:30 AM, a program which marks the time of that day's horrific events with words from local dignitaries and music by the Lukens Band; from 10:30 AM to 4 PM, free admission to the museum's indoor exhibits and videos; 7 PM, the Lukens Band will lead a musical remembrance program.

Library Love Fundraiser

The Library Love fundraiser will be held from 6-9 PM on Thursday, September 28, at the Downingtown Country Club. Proceeds from live auction bidding and raffles go to the Downingtown Library. Tickets are \$40. Contact francine.dague@gamail.com or gwood1139@comcast.net regarding auction item donations or sponsorship opportunities.

Kids Day in East Caln

East Caln will be held in East Caln Park from 10 AM until 2 PM on Saturday, September 16; rain date is Sunday, September 17. Fun activities include petting zoo, pony rides, sand art, moon bounce, rock climbing wall, face painting, police fingerprinting, music, free popcorn, cotton candy and water ice.

Run/Walk For Life

Chester County Women's Services (CCWS), a local nonprofit pregnancy care medical center, will hold its annual 5K Run/Walk For Life on Saturday, Sept. 16, at Kerr Park and Struble Trail in Downingtown. The event begins next to the Kerr Park playground, with the run/walk starting at 8 AM, followed by Family Fun Day from 9 - 11:30 AM. A children's soccer clinic and parachutes sponsored by United Sports, as well as a Kid's Run will provide entertainment for the young guests. Registration is available at www.runsignup.com/CCWS. Register before Sept. 1 to get early bird pricing and a free T-shirt. Guests are encouraged to bring a baby item such as diapers, wipes, or clothing to donate to a local families in need.

Teri's Run

Teri's Run will be held on Friday evening, September 8, starting on Green Street in Downingtown. The Kids' Run begins at 6:30 PM and the 5 K Run and 1.5-mile walk start at 7 PM. Pre-registration deadline is September 1.

Refreshments will be served after the race. Raffle prizes and age group prizes donated by local supporters will be given away during the awards ceremony at 8 PM. **Proceeds are donated to the [Delaware Valley chapter of the Scleroderma Foundation](#) and the [Scleroderma Research Foundation](#), and are earmarked for research.** For more info and registration details, see: <http://www.terisrun.org/>

More on Milford Mills

Due to popular demand, author and historian Catherine Quillman has been invited by the East Brandywine Township Historical Commission to give another presentation on "Milford Mills: the Lost Village" at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 27 at the Township Building on Route 322, Guthriesville.. The lecture is free and open to the public. The evening will include time-to-share stories, as well as early photos taken from Quillman's expanded book, *The Story of Milford Mills and The Marsh Creek Valley*. The author welcomes any photos that you might want to share such as those of other "lost" communities, including the former village of Eagle, Byers, Dorlan's Mills and Bondsville. Refreshments will be served.

Community Day in Caln

The 11th annual Community Day, sponsored by Hatt's True Value Hardware and the Downingtown Library, will be held from 3-8:30 PM on Saturday, September 9. Events will include fireworks, music, vendors, food, a beer garden and activities such as a photo booth, mini golf course and knockerballs.

State Police History

State Trooper Gonzales will talk about the History of the PA State Police Historical and Memorial Center at the West Caln Historical Society's meeting at 7 PM on **Tuesday, September 19**. The meetings are held at West Caln Municipal Bldg., 721 W. Kings Hwy, Wagontown, and are free and open to the public.

Caln Community Day

The 11th annual Caln Community Day, sponsored by Hatt's True Value Hardware and the Downingtown Library, will be held in the Municipal Park in Thorndale from 3-8:30 PM on Saturday, September 9. Events will include fireworks, music, vendors, food, a beer garden and activities such as a photo booth, mini golf course and knockerballs.

Mill at Anselma

The Mill at Anselma will host Ryan Conroy, historian and president of the Historical Society of the Phoenixville Area, who will lead a discussion about the men and woman of Northern Chester County who served in the military during WWI. This event will be held on Thursday evening, September 7, in Bell Hall at Montgomery School, 1141 Kimberton Road, Chester Springs. It will begin at 6:30 PM with a wine & cheese reception, followed by the evening's topic at 7 PM. Tickets may be purchased at the door for \$5. Members of the Mill at Anselma attend free of charge. The talk will also provide a glimpse into the current exhibit "Over There and Over Here: Phoenixville in WWI" at The Historical Society of the Phoenixville Area.

And The Mill at Anselma will also host the 97th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry (PVI), from 10 AM to 4 PM, on Saturday, September 9. The 97th PVI is a family-friendly organization of local Civil War reenactors who join in battles and camps throughout the year to preserve the memories of the soldiers and civilians that lived during the Civil War. The event includes Civil War tents on site, a rifle demonstration, a display of mid-19th century ladies clothing and children's games, and members of the 97th PVI will be instructing visitors on the life of a Union soldier.

The Mill at Anselma, on Rte. 401 (1730 Conestoga Road), ½ mile west of Route. 113 in Chester Springs, open for tours Thursday through Sunday from 10 AM to 4 PM. Visitors will learn how a mill was operated, see the 16 foot water wheel power Colonial-era gears and mill stones, and see and feel the final product as it flows from the stones. Admission to the Mill is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors, and \$3 for children ages 4-14. Children under 4 are free. For more information, contact the Mill at 610-827-1906, email info@anselmamill.org, or visit www.anselmamill.org.

Log House Art & Craft Show

Downingtown's Historic Commission is looking for exhibitors who plan to sell original, hand-crafted items at the annual Art & Craft Show from 9 AM to 2 PM Saturday, September 9 at Kerr Park. For details, see:

<http://downingtown.org/Documents/Log%20House%20Craft%20Show/2017/2017LOGHOUSEARTCRAFTSHOWAPP.pdf>

Senior Center programs & activities

You'll find information about the programs and activities at the Downingtown Area Senior Center in its monthly newsletter at: www.downingtownseniors.org/programs/newsletter/

Open Houses in Lionville

The Uwchlan Township Historical Commission will offer several open house events in the Lionville National Historic District on the first Sunday of the month, from April through November, at the John Cadwalader House and the Edith P. Moore School. Both are located on North Village Avenue and are staffed and open from 2 - 4 PM. The Moore School is the original one-room building where children can try on clothing replicas of the period and sit at historical desks. For more info, call 610-280-9522.

Lyme Disease

The Lyme Disease Association of Southeastern Pennsylvania, an education and support group for patients and caregivers who have been affected by Lyme Disease, meets on the third Wednesday of every month at 7 PM at the Kennett Friends Meeting House on Route 82 (125 W. Sickie St. Kennett Square). Meetings are free and all are welcome. Check www.lymepa.org for directions and program information.

Brochure on DARC classes & activities

You can gain access to the latest Downingtown Area Recreational Consortium brochure, listing all classes and activities, at: www.darc.info/. For more info, call 610-269-9260, or stop by the DARC office (8:30 AM-4:30 PM, Monday thru Friday), 114 Bell Tavern Road, Downingtown.

Banquet room for rent

The Downingtown (Williamson) Masonic Lodge, a non-profit organization located at 210 Manor Ave. has a Banquet Room for rent. The area is perfect for parties of up to 80 people and has a full kitchen. Rental fees are reasonable. Call 610-269-3555 for more information.

Joseph's People, Downingtown chapter

An ecumenical support mission to help unemployed or underemployed people. The group is entirely conducted by volunteers, and has been at St. Joseph's since 1995. Meets at 7:30 PM on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the month. All are welcome. Visit web page, <http://josephspeople.org/our-chapters/downingtown/>, or just come to a meeting at St. Joseph's Parish Meeting Room behind the school, 460 Manor Ave., Downingtown. Call 610-873-7117. Leave Message. Leader: Cheryl Spaulding, Email: cheryl.spaulding@josephspeople.org.